



Carolina Telephone
Centel-North Carolina
Centel-Virginia
United Telephone-Southeast

James B. Wright
Senior Attorney

October 6, 1997

Mr. David Waddell
Executive Secretary
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0505

RE: Docket No. 97-00888 (Universal Service)
Sprint's Comments on Report and Recommendation of
Hearing Officer

Dear Mr. Waddell:

Pursuant to the Hearing Officer's Memorandum dated October 1, 1997 regarding the Report and Recommendation of the Hearing Officer in the above case, Sprint Communications Company L.P. and United Telephone-Southeast, Inc. (Sprint) respectfully submit the following Joint Comments.

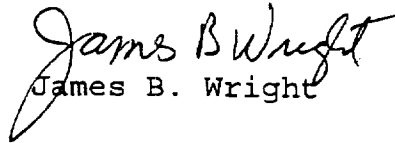
Sprint agrees with the BellSouth and AT&T list of issues to be addressed in the Universal Service proceeding, and further, Sprint confirms the designation of preliminary issues as those that represent the distinction between issues to be addressed in Phase I and Phase II of this proceeding. Sprint agrees that pricing of Universal Service and any discussion of implicit and explicit funding should be addressed in Phase II.

It is noted that the schedule presented by the Hearing Officer indicates that the "Authority Decision on Phase I Issues" is not rendered until January 27, 1997, which provides insufficient time for reconsideration. In addition, the schedule presented does not include a date for a Technical Workshop although the parties have previously agreed that such a workshop would be helpful. Therefore, Sprint recommends the inclusion of a Technical Workshop which would help limit the discovery by the parties. To incorporate these concerns, Sprint proposes as part of these comments a revised schedule for consideration (See Attachment A). If the ninety days' extension that the TRA has requested is granted by the FCC, the schedule can be altered.

Mr. David Waddell
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Thirteen copies of this letter are enclosed for filing in the above case. Please contact me or Laura Sykora (919/554-7323) if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely yours,


James B. Wright

JBW:er

CC: Laura Sykora (with enclosure)
Steve Parrott (with enclosure)
Bob Wallace (with enclosure)
Counsel of Record (with enclosure)

#12061

**PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR UNIVERSAL SERVICE
PHASE I
COST ISSUES**

DOCKET NO. 97-00888

Briefs due on Preliminary Issues and Issues of Law	October 16, 1997
Decision on All Preliminary Issues and Issues of Law	October 21, 1997
Technical Workshop (all cost models are presented)	October 27-31, 1997
Cost Models Filed	November 4, 1997
Discovery Request Due	November 11, 1997
Responses to Discovery Due	November 21, 1997
Direct Testimony Due	November 26, 1997
Rebuttal Testimony Due	December 5, 1997
Hearings	December 15-19, 1997
Post Hearing Briefs (optional)	January 7, 1998
Authority Decision on Phase I issues	January 20, 1997
File Models with FCC	February 6, 1998